

**REMARKS**

The Applicant has received and reviewed the Official Action dated 14 July 2005 (hereinafter, the "Action"). This paper is submitted as a fully-responsive reply to the Action, and the Applicant requests favorable action on the subject application at the earliest convenience of the Office.

As stated in Paragraph 2 on Page 2 of the Action, claims 1-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,329,578 to Brennan, et al. (hereinafter, "Brennan") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,563,939 to La Porta, et al. (hereinafter, "La Porta"). The Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Turning first to independent claim 1, without conceding the propriety of the rejection and solely to advance the prosecution of this application, the Applicant has revised claim 1 to clarify further features of the method. For convenience, claim 1 is reproduced here, with redlines included:

"1. (Currently Amended) A method for blocking a call to a called line selected by a calling party, said calling party having a calling line identification number, said method comprising:

receiving an outgoing communication directed to a called line from a calling line, said calling line associated with a subscriber to an outgoing call blocking service;

obtaining a calling line identification number for said communication;

obtaining a called line identification number for said communication;

activating the outgoing call blocking service at a first pre-set time;

de-activating the outgoing call blocking service at a second pre-set time;

looking for said calling line identification number in a data store to determine data associated with said calling line identification number concerning calls from the calling line to a called line which are to be blocked; and

terminating the call if the data indicates that the call is to be blocked."

The Applicant submits that the revisions to claim 1 are fully supported under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph, by the originally-filed specification, at least by page 2, lines 30-31, and by page 16, line 28 through page 17, line 4.

Turning to the cited art, the Applicant agrees with the assessment on Page 3 of the Action that Brennan does not disclose receiving an outgoing communication directed to a called line from a calling line, said calling line associated with a subscriber to an outgoing call blocking service. Accordingly, the Action cited La Porta, column 6, lines 26-42, for teaching related to a method and system for delivering a communication service. While the cited portion of La Porta pertains to outgoing call blocking, the Applicant respectfully submits that La Porta fails to teach or suggest the features recited above in claim 1. More particularly, La Porta neither teaches nor suggests:

"activating the outgoing call blocking service at a first pre-set time;

de-activating the outgoing call blocking service at a second pre-set time;".

Based on at least the foregoing, the Applicant submits that Brennan and La Porta do not support a § 103 rejection of claim 1, and requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103 rejection of claim 1.

Claims 2-10 depend from claim 1 and stand rejected on similar grounds. Accordingly, the above comments directed to claim 1 apply equally to claims 2-10. The Applicant thus requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103 rejections of claims 2-10.

Turning now to independent claim 11, without conceding the propriety of the rejection and solely to advance the prosecution of this application, the Applicant has revised claim 11 to clarify further features of the method, similar to the revisions made to claim 1. The revisions made to claim 11 are believed fully supported under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph, on at least the same basis as were the revisions to claim 1 above. Additionally, the above comments regarding Brennan and La Porta as directed to claim 1 apply equally to claim 11.

Based on at least the foregoing, the Applicant submits that Brennan and La Porta do not support a § 103 rejection of claim 11, and requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103 rejection of claim 11.

Claims 12-14 depend from claim 11 and stand rejected on similar grounds. Accordingly, the above comments directed to claim 11 apply equally to claims 12-14.

The Applicant thus requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103 rejections of claims 12-14.

Turning now to **independent claim 15**, without conceding the propriety of the rejection and solely to advance the prosecution of this application, the Applicant has revised claim 15 to clarify further features of the method, similar to the revisions made to claim 1. The revisions made to claim 15 are believed fully supported under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph, on at least the same basis as were the revisions to claim 1 above. Additionally, the above comments regarding Brennan and La Porta as directed to claim apply equally to claim 15.

Based on at least the foregoing, the Applicant submits that Brennan and La Porta do not support a § 103 rejection of claim 15, and requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103 rejection of claim 15.

Claims 16-21 depend from claim 15 and stand rejected on similar grounds. Accordingly, the above comments directed to claim 15 apply equally to claims 16-21. The Applicant thus requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103 rejections of claims 16-21.

Turning now to **independent claim 22**, without conceding the propriety of the rejection and solely to advance the prosecution of this application, the Applicant has revised claim 22 to clarify further features of the system. The revisions made to claim 22 are similar to the revisions made to claim 1, but the revisions made to claim 22 pertain to:

"a storage device for storing data concerning outgoing calls to be blocked, and further for storing at least one pre-set time period over which the outgoing call blocking service is to be activated or deactivated, the time period being defined by at least one pre-set time or at least one pre-set day".

The revisions made to claim 22 are believed fully supported under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph, on at least the same basis as were the revisions to claim 1 above. Additionally, the above comments regarding Brennan and La Porta as directed to claim apply equally to claim 22.

Based on at least the foregoing, the Applicant submits that Brennan and La Porta do not support a § 103 rejection of claim 22, and requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103 rejection of claim 22.

Claims 23-24 depend from claim 22 and stand rejected on similar grounds. Accordingly, the above comments directed to claim 22 apply equally to claims 23-24. The Applicant thus requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103 rejections of claims 23-24.

Dependent claim 21 is amended to address an informality noted by the Applicant.

### Conclusion

The Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103 rejections favorable action of claims 1-24. If any issue remains unresolved that would prevent favorable action on this case, the Office is requested to contact the undersigned to resolve the issue.

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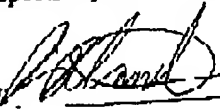
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RESPONSE TO OFFICIAL ACTION DATED 14 JULY 2003